

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] In another exemplary embodiment of the invention, a method of assisting beginning writers in creating letters and pre-writing strokes utilizes the pre-writing teaching aid of the invention. The method sequentially includes (a) a teacher stamping the writing surface with one of the at least four magnetic stamps aligned with either the upper left-hand corner region of the housing or a central upper region of the housing to form a part letter image; (b) the teacher erasing the part letter image; (c) a student imitating the teacher stamping of step (a); (d) the teacher stamping the writing surface with one or more of the at least four magnetic stamps to form a complete letter image; (e) the teacher erasing the complete letter image; and (f) the student imitating the teacher stamping of step ~~(e)~~(d). Step (a) is practiced for some letters by stamping the writing surface with one of the at least four magnetic stamps aligned with the happy face visual cue. The method may further include, between steps (d) and (e), the student tracing the complete letter image with the magnetic writing tool. Additionally or alternatively, the method may include, after step (f), the student tracing the complete letter image with the magnetic writing tool.